

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 SAA-01 L-01 PA-01 ICA-01 SES-01 SP-02
/047 W

-----009309 282306Z /62 ,

P R 281240Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 640
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 09429

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR, KU
SUBJ: IRAN-KUWAIT RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 9000 (NOTAL)

1. KUWAITI AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO TEHRAN "INCOGNITO"
AGAIN EVENING SEPT 27 AND HAD AUDIENCE WITH SHAH
MORNING SEPT 28. HE STOPPED IN TO BRIEF ME AFTER
THE AUDIENCE ON HIS WAY TO THE AIRPORT BEFORE RETURNING
TO KUWAIT, WHERE HE WILL FINISH ANOTHER WEEK OR TWO OF
LEAVE.

2. HE SAID THAT SHAH, IN RESPONSE EMIR'S PREVIOUS
OFFER OF SUPPORT HAD ASKED WHETHER KUWAIT COULD DO
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ANYTHING TO "GET THE SHIA CLERGY IN IRAN OUT OF
POLITICS." EMIR HAS APPARENTLY BEEN MULLING THIS OVER
AND ASKED HIS AMBASSADOR TO COME TO TEHRAN TO TELL THE
SHAH THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ASK THE SHIA CLERGY
IN KUWAIT TO SEND SUCH A MESSAGE TO THEIR BRETHREN
IN IRAN AS "A SUGGESTION FROM FRIENDS." SHAH
HAS ASKED EMIR TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS ACTION.

3. SECOND REASON FOR VISIT WAS TO COMPARE NOTES ON CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD LEFT KUWAIT PRIOR TO ASSAD VISIT AND THUS WAS UNABLE CONVEY ANY SENSE OF THIS ENCOUNTER EXCEPT TO STIPULATE HIS OWN CONVICTION THAT ASSAD IS REALLY A "MODERATE." HE GAVE ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAD GIVEN SHAH A POSITIVE VIEW OF CAMP DAVID DOCUMENTS AND SHARED THE SHAH'S ASSESSMENT THAT SADAT MUST CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTED.

4. THE POSITIVE DESCRIPTION OF THIS KUWAITI VIEW MAY, OF COURSE, REPRESENT ARAB BLANDISHMENT FOR AN AMERICAN INTERLOCUTOR. BUT, IF IT DOES REPRESENT THE TRUE NATURE OF WHAT THE KUWAITIS HAVE SAID PRIVATELY TO THE SHAH, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING THAN WHAT THEY TOLD ATHERTON DURING HIS VISIT THERE.
SULLIVAN

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